

REMARKS

Applicant acknowledges receipt of the Office Action dated September 21, 2004 which alleges that the present application contains claims directed to four patentably distinct species. With this Office Action Response, Applicant elects the species of Group III (claims 16-24).

Notwithstanding the above election, Applicant respectfully traverses the division of the claims presented in the Office Action. While not identical, each of the limitations of independent claim 16 is substantially similar to at least one of the limitations of independent claim 5. Thus, claim 16 is generic to claim 5. At least for this reason, claims 5-11 of Group II, as well as claims 16-24 of elected Group III, should be examined together.

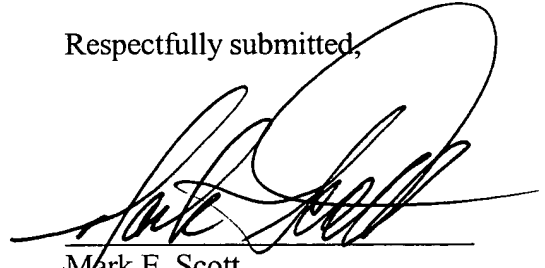
Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims and a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite the resolution of this case, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

In the course of the foregoing discussions, Applicant may have at times referred to claim limitations in shorthand fashion, or may have focused on a particular claim element. This discussion should not be interpreted to mean that the other limitations can be ignored or dismissed. The claims must be viewed as a whole, and each limitation of the claims must be considered when determining the patentability of the claims. Moreover, it should be understood that there may be other distinctions between the claims and the prior art which have yet to be raised, but which may be raised in the future.

Application No. 10/085,288
Amendment Dated October 15, 2004
Reply to Office Action of September 21, 2004

If any fees are inadvertently omitted or if any additional fees are required or have been overpaid, please appropriately charge or credit those fees to Conley Rose, P.C. Deposit Account Number 03-2769.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark E. Scott', is written over a horizontal line.

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